



# Massachusetts Avenue Bus Priority Pilot

Public Meeting

August 15, 2018

# Meeting Overview

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- Introductions and presentation (25 minutes)
- Stations for small group input (75 minutes)
- Next steps (20 minutes)



Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority



**ITDP**  
Institute for Transportation  
& Development Policy



**Stantec**

# Overview and Benefits



# Public Transit / Buses

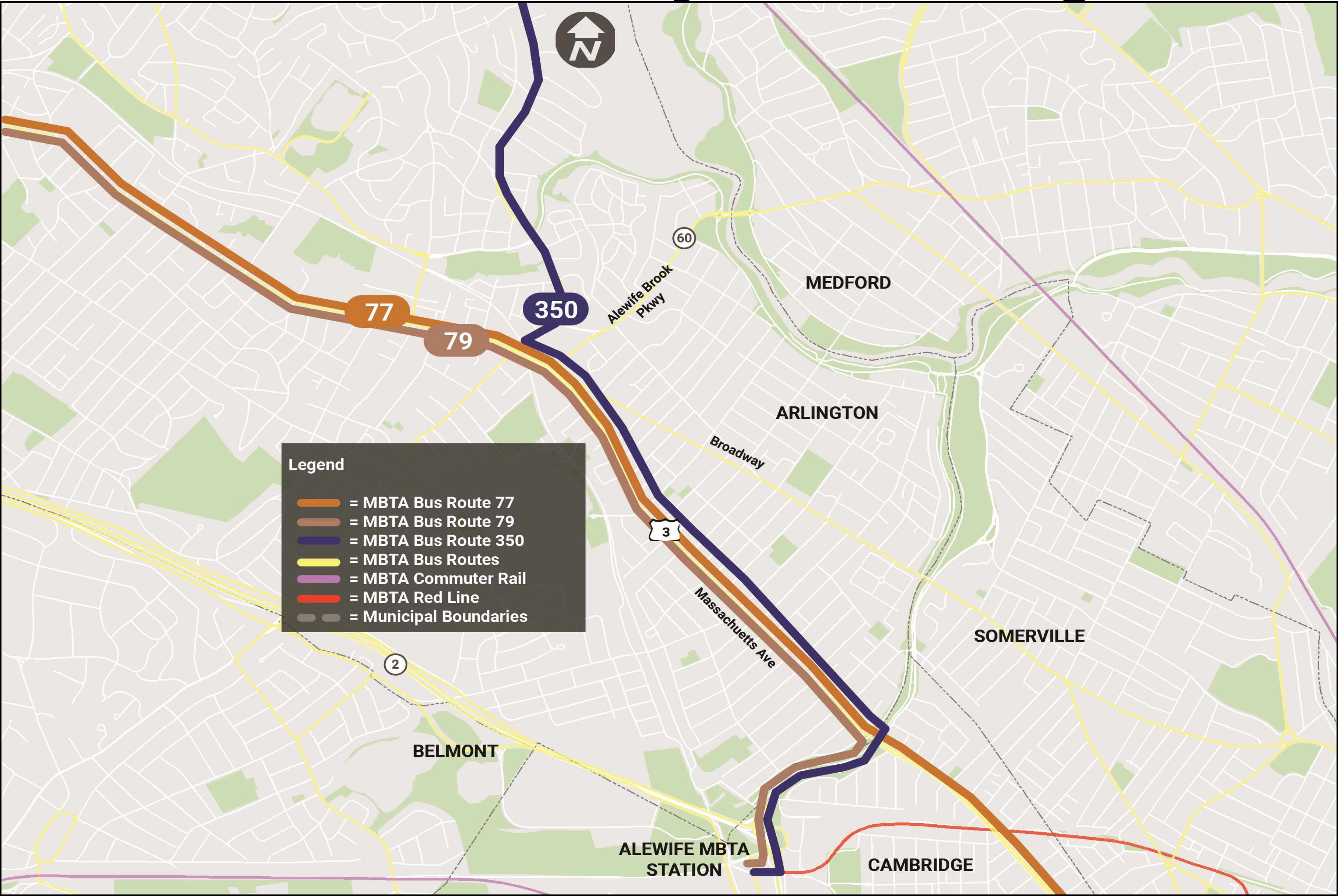
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- The region is growing economically and regional traffic is increasing
- Public transit is the most efficient way to capture and serve that growth in a sustainable way, reduce congestion, relieve demand for parking
- A 30% increase in transit trips in the region is predicted by 2035
- **Bus service suffers from significant delay and reliability challenges**





# MBTA Ridership in Arlington



**Route 77**  
**7,600+ riders/day**

**Route 79**  
**1,200+ riders/day**

**Route 350**  
**1,600+ riders/day**

**Over 10,000  
riders/day**

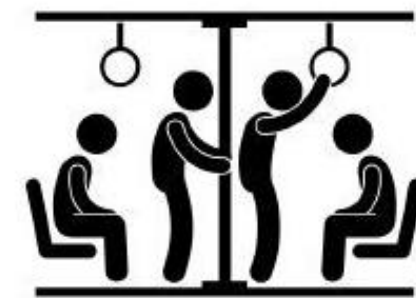


# Why Bus Improvements Matter

## MBTA Routes 77, 79 & 350

### Riders

More than **1/2** are  
Commuters  
but **56%** of Route 77  
riders are not



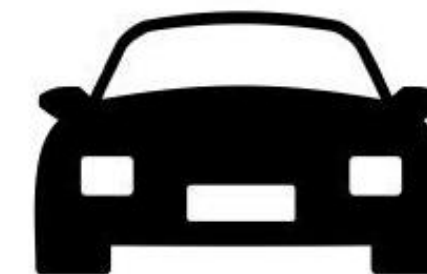
**1/3** of the riders are  
Low Income



**97%** of Route 77 & 79 riders  
walk or bike to the bus



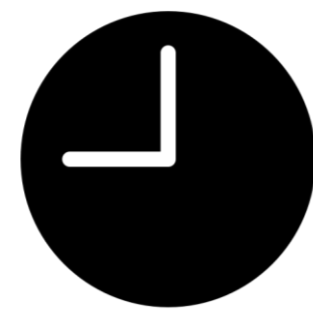
**2/3** of Riders have  
access to vehicle



# Time Travel Variance

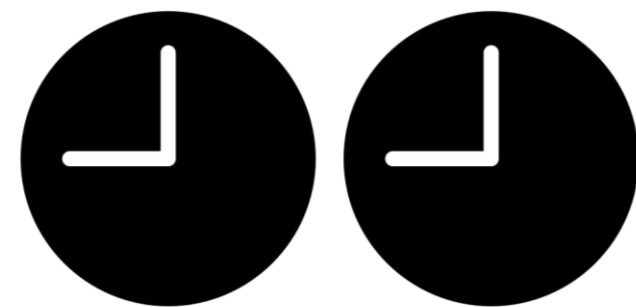
Inbound minutes between scheduled and actual departure times

**50<sup>th</sup>** Percentile



**3-5** minutes  
behind schedule

**90<sup>th</sup>** Percentile



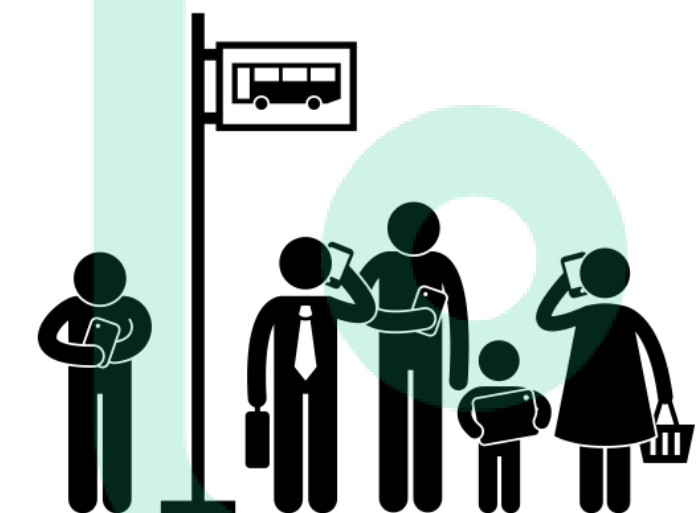
**10-20** minutes  
behind schedule

## Causes

- Long Wait Times



- Overcrowding



- Bus Bunching



# Arlington Pilot Goals

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- 1. Improve Traffic Flow**
- 2. Reduce Travel Time**
- 3. Increase Reliability**





# What about people who don't take the bus?

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- Accommodating growth through public transit can help reduce congestion and create less demand for parking for those who still want/need to drive
- Travel time by car should not be significantly affected, and conflicts reduced
- No significant impacts expected for access out of side streets
- Design considers parking demand along corridor



# Timeline

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<b>April-June:</b>	Field Work and Data Collection, including stakeholder meetings
<b>May 16:</b>	BRT Educational Forum
<b>June-August:</b>	Corridor Scenario Development (Conceptual Design of Dedicated Bus Lane, Queue Jumps, Bus Stop Relocation and Related Improvements)
<b>May-October:</b>	Stakeholder Meetings in East Arlington
<b>August 15:</b>	<b>Alternatives Scenarios Forum</b>
<b>August-September:</b>	Implementation (final design and prepare for implementation, engage street teams)
<b>October:</b>	Bus Priority Pilot
<b>November-December:</b>	Pilot Evaluation
<b>November 14:</b>	Final Forum

# Pilot Options





# Arlington Bus Priority Pilot

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## Pilot

- Minimal or no construction; cones, signal changes, signs, education and enforcement
- October 2018 during morning commute eastbound

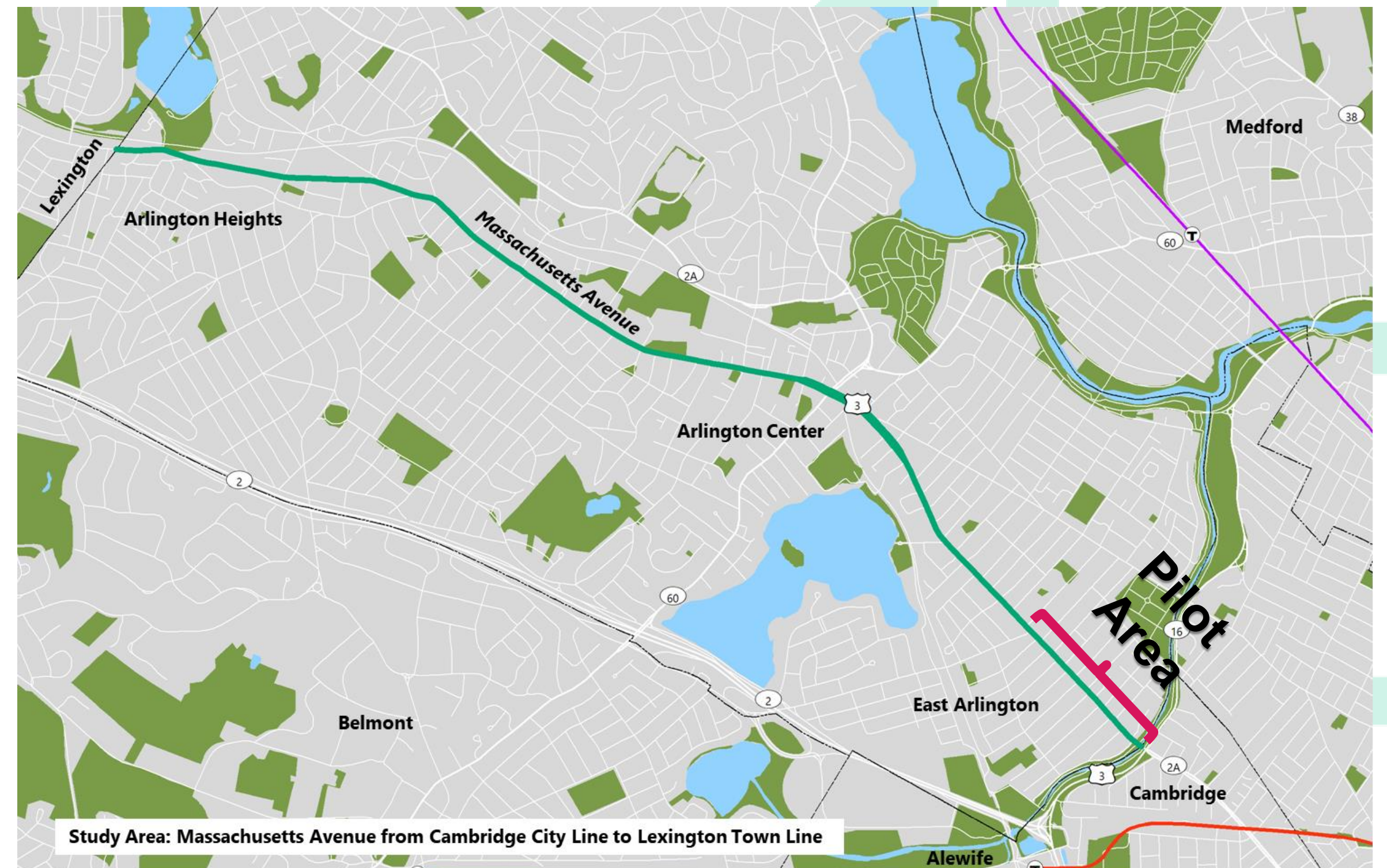
## Proposed Features

- Mass Ave Eastbound - Lake Street to Alewife Brook Parkway
- Bus queue jump at Lake Street and Alewife Brook Parkway
- Bus stop relocation at Lake Street



# Process and Methodology

- ✓ Corridor Review
  - Data Collection
  - Observations
  - Field Assessment
- ✓ Conceptual Design
  - Different Potential Alternatives
  - Range of opportunities
    - From continuous treatment to “Surgical” Approach
- ✓ Public Review and Input Throughout Process
  - One-Month Pilot Program
  - Post-Pilot Assessment

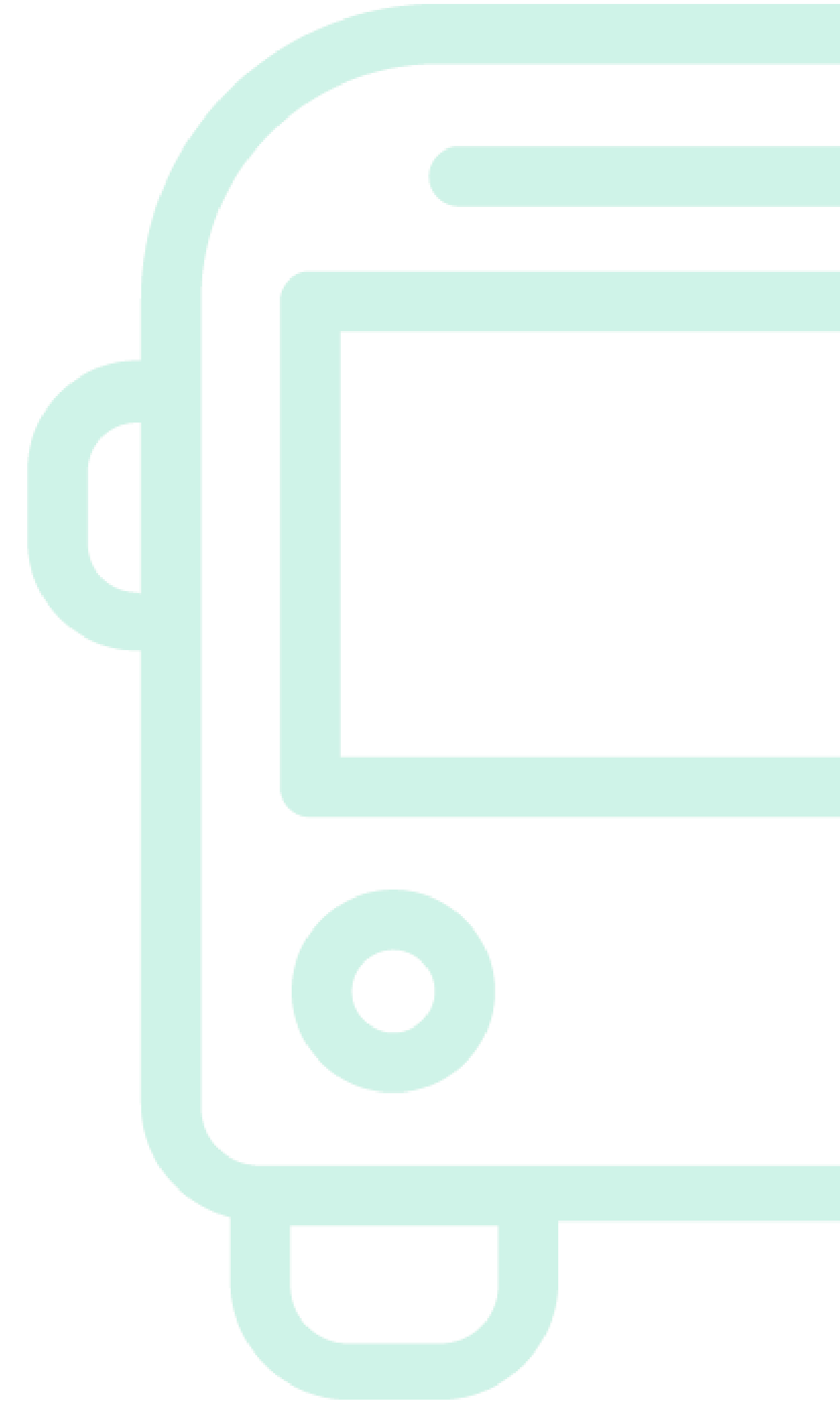




# Mass Ave at Lake Street

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- Two Alternatives
- Mass Ave at Lake Street and the approaches
- Hourly Parking Data
- Data Collected and Alternative Analyses





# Mass Ave between Lake Street and Alewife Brook Parkway

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- Three Alternatives
- Mass Ave running way between Lake Street and Alewife Brook Parkway
- Hourly Parking Data
- Data Collected and Alternative Analyses



# Mass Ave at Alewife Brook Parkway

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- Four Alternatives
- Mass Ave at Lake Street and the approaches
- Hourly Parking Data
- Data Collected and Alternative Analyses



# Process and Evaluation





# Evaluation of Concepts

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Bus Travel Time  
Bus Reliability  
Vehicular Traffic  
Intersection Queues  
Pedestrian Accommodation  
Bicycle Accommodation  
On-Street Parking Displacement  
Feasibility

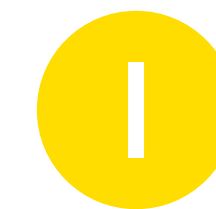
## *Impact Designation*



**Positive**



**Slightly Positive**



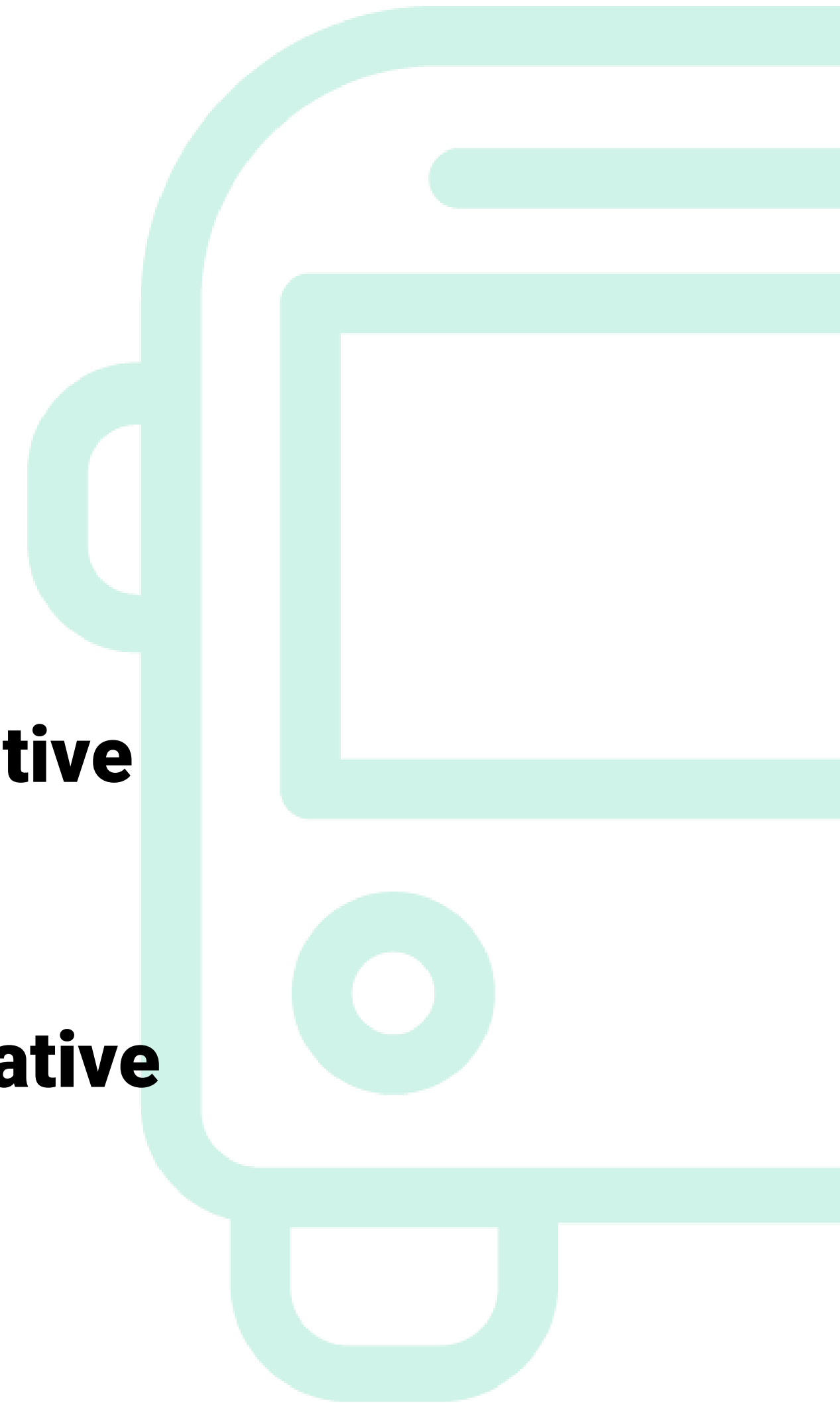
**Neutral**



**Slightly Negative**



**Negative**



# Stations for Small Group Input





# Small Group Stations

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**Station 1:** Mass Ave at Lake Street

**Station 2:** Mass Ave between Lake Street and Alewife Brook Parkway

**Station 3:** Mass Ave at Alewife Brook Parkway





# Participation Rules

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- Please introduce yourself (name and affiliation, if any)
- What questions do you have about the options presented?
- Use brevity and respect time
- Express disagreements or concerns in a respectful manner

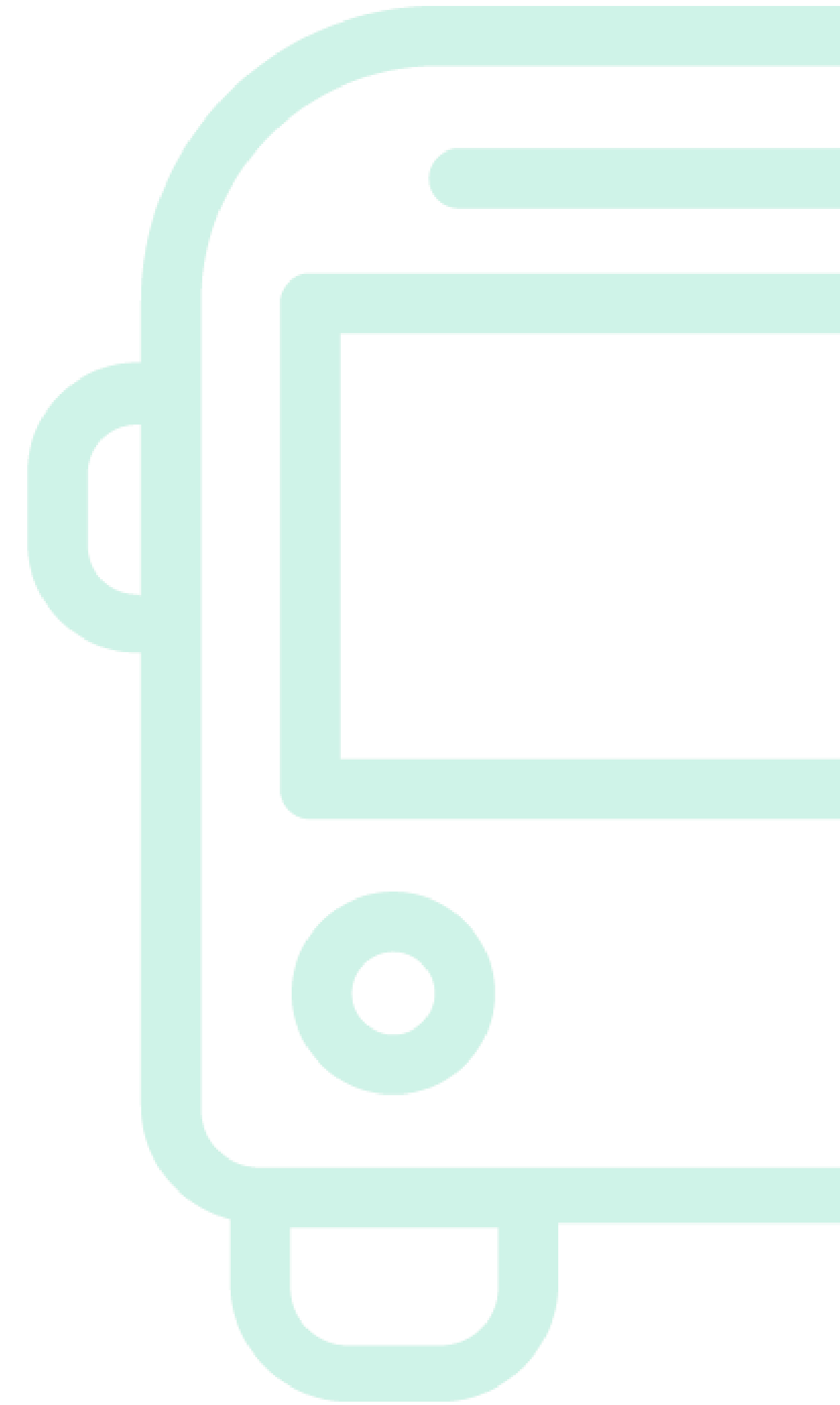


# If You Have Just Arrived...

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**1. Please sign in at the Registration Table.**

**2. Join a Small Group.**



# Wrap Up and Next Steps

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**SAVE THE DATE!**



# Thank You

**For more information:**

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